

Request for Council Action

Originator Engineering	Item Order 2016-203 SRTS Jefferson Area Improvements
Agenda Section Consent	Date 8/24/2015
Description	

This Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project includes pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements to improve access and safety and to encourage walking and biking to the Jefferson High School, Hubert Olson Middle School and Hubert Olson Elementary School Campus. The project includes pedestrian crossing improvements with rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) and other safety enhancements at three school crosswalks: (1) Old Shakopee Road at Kell Avenue, (2) France Avenue at Heritage Hills/Canterbury Road, (3) Johnson Avenue at Jefferson High School Driveway, as well as an off-road trail connection between Johnson Avenue and the Hubert Olson Schools, and bicycle storage racks at the schools. A map has been included showing the location of these improvements.

This SRTS project was identified and targeted through the development of the Bloomington Safe Routes to School Plan (working draft), that is being prepared as a collaborative project between the City of Bloomington and Bloomington Public Schools.

In January 2014 City Staff hosted a resident open house at Hubert Olson Middle School as part of the planning for this potential project. At the open house residents provided comments on safety concerns at the existing school crossing locations and feedback on the proposed pedestrian safety improvements. Since that open house the proposed pedestrian crossing safety improvements at the Old Shakopee Road crossing were shifted back to the existing crosswalk location (instead of mid-block as we had originally proposed) and the treatment was changed from a proposed HAWK signal to the mast-arm mounted RRFB enhancement, all based on discussions and approvals from Hennepin County, the local roadway authority at this crossing location. Staff is not proposing to have any additional resident open houses for this project.

Staff applied for and has received federal funding for this project from the MnDOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant Program for fiscal year 2016. This project has been awarded up to \$185,059 of federal funds for construction costs, with a committed 20% local agency match. The total estimated project cost is \$250,323. Bloomington local funds will cover the local match amount with no special assessments proposed. The local funds will come from the State Aid Roadway account and are accounted for in the 2016 budget.

Some right-of-way acquisition will be needed on Old Shakopee Road for construction of the crossing improvement and ADA accessible pedestrian ramps at that location. The Council can anticipate seeing that information in coming weeks.

Prepared by: Amy Marohn, Civil Engineer

Presented by (if needed): Shelly Pederson, City Engineer

Staff recommends that City Council adopt a resolution ordering the 2016-203 SRTS Jefferson Area Improvements Project.

Attachments:

2016 Safe Routes to School Project Location Map
Crosswalk Enhancement: Old Shakopee Road at Kell Avenue
Crosswalk Enhancement: France Avenue at Heritage Hills Dr/Canterbury Rd
Crosswalk Enhancement: Johnson Ave at Jefferson Drwy
School Property Trail and Bike Rack Locations
Resolution Ordering the Project